

## Routes to tour in Germany

# The Harz and Heath Route

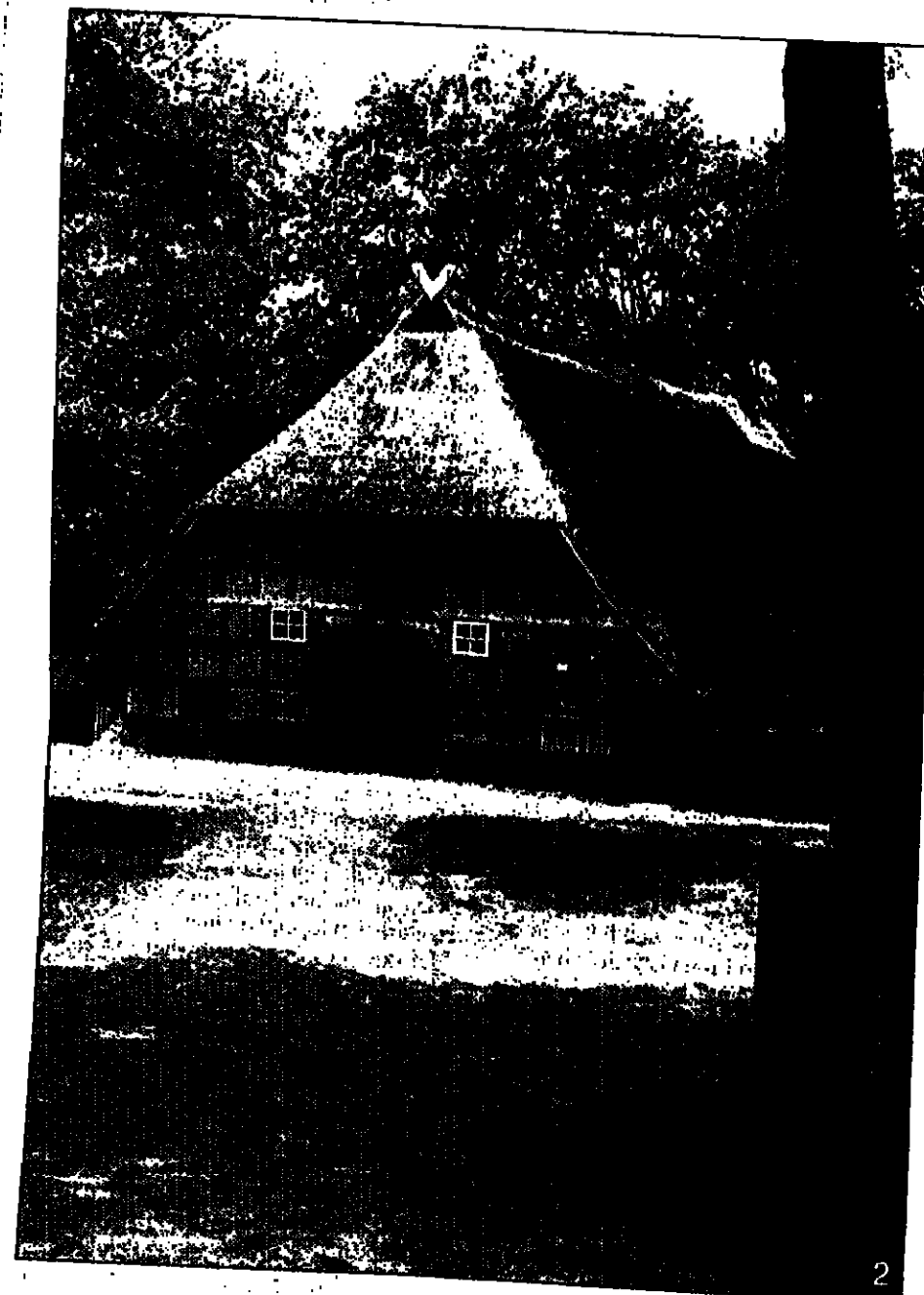


German roads will get you there — to areas at times so attractive that one route leads to the next, from the Harz mountains to the Lüneburg Heath, say. Maybe you should take a look at both.

The Harz, northernmost part of the Mittelgebirge range, is holiday country all the year round. In summer for hikers, in winter for skiers in their tens of thousands. Tour from the hill resorts of Osterode, Clausthal-Zellerfeld or Bad Harzburg or from the 1,000-

year-old town of Goslar. The Heath extends from Celle, with its town centre of half-timbered houses unscathed by the war and the oldest theatre in Germany, to Lüneburg, also 1,000 years old. It boasts wide expanses of flat countryside, purple heather and herds of local curly-horned sheep.

Visit Germany and let the Harz and Heath Route be your guide.



- 1 Brunswick
- 2 An old Lüneburg Heath
- 3 The Harz
- 4 Göttingen

DZT DEUTSCHE ZENTRALE FÜR TOURISMUS  
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## Missiles begin to arrive but talks carry on

Missile deployment has already begun in Britain. It is about to begin in Germany. All that is needed is for the Bundestag to give the go-ahead, as it will.

The Americans were prepared for an earlier deadline and will be quick to deliver the goods. The first delivery, of Pershing 2s, will probably be operational before Christmas.

This is of particular importance because the Russians, in the person of Soviet ambassador Semyonov in Bonn, have indicated readiness to carry on negotiating until the de facto stationing of the new US missiles.

If Moscow had made good its original threat of abandoning the Geneva talks as soon as the West started stationing, the chief Soviet delegate, Mr Kvitsinsky, would have called it a day on 15 November.

His meeting that day with Mr Nitze and the US delegation was extremely short, but the two sides did agree to meet again two days later.

That alone doesn't mean much. The superpowers aren't negotiating in Geneva to present to achieve results but merely to find a pretext for blaming each other.

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story tale not the sensation  
it is claimed to be

For the countries where missiles are to be stationed, initially Britain, the Federal Republic of Germany and Italy, it is important to be able to note that stationing is not an irrevocable fact as long as the two sides are still talking.

Thatcher, Herr Kohl and Signor De Michelis all say that missiles installed can be withdrawn if satisfactory terms are negotiated at the Geneva missile talks. Such assurances are partly intended to allay domestic consumption, but they are aimed at providing the Soviet Union with an incentive to carry on talks in Geneva.

Comments by Soviet politicians and diplomats are to some extent contradictory but they do indicate that bids of kind are not meaningless.

Views evidently differ in Moscow, not only on the aim but also the procedure at Geneva, and especially on whether stationing should mark the be-

ginning of another ice age in East-West relations.

The signs are, as was clear during Bonn Economic Affairs Minister Lambsdorff's visit to Moscow, that the old guard of Soviet politicians are not in favour of an ice age, mainly for economic reasons.

Yet the Soviet military are not prepared to make substantial concessions in Geneva, while the man who could end the uncertainty and indecision, Mr Andropov, is so ill that there is speculation over who is to succeed him.

As long as this continues there is unlikely to be any great movement on the Soviet Union's part.

That was partly why Moscow promptly rejected the latest proposal by President Reagan, which came too late to influence more than the Bundestag debate. It provided Chancellor Kohl with an opportunity of defending the Americans for showing flexibility and of emphasising his own role in bringing about a reasonable compromise proposal.

For the same reason the Opposition (SPD) were bound to reject the latest US offer. It might otherwise have upset the rejection of missile modernisation on which the Social Democrats had agreed before their special party conference.

The Soviet Union could hardly be expected to make any last-minute changes to this battle order by agreeing to any American offer other than one of unconditional surrender.

Soviet tactics in Geneva show Russia to have stalled at the talks to drive the Nato countries into fraternal strife.

Moscow has hopes of reaping a rich harvest.

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### Deployment to go ahead

Chancellor Helmut Kohl begins the missile debate in the Bundestag, with a policy speech. The Bundestag voted to go ahead with deployment in Germany. (Photo: Sven Simon)

## Chilly spell but no ice age predicted between East, West

Stationing of 572 new medium-range US missiles in Europe will go ahead at the end of this month as resolved by Nato — that is, if last-minute agreement is not reached at Geneva.

Bonn does not expect any such miracle to happen. It feels there are clear signs that Moscow has long come to terms with Western missile deployment and included it as a firm feature in plans for the future.

Planning staff in the West are already thinking beyond the start of deployment

and in terms of the stationing plan drawn up by Nato secretary-general Joseph Luns, which extends over a period of several years.

They are also preparing for the eventuality of reducing the level of missile deployment in keeping with how far Moscow is prepared to cut back its prior arms build-up.

Chancellor Kohl said during his visit to Japan that the beginning of missile deployment would not lead to an ice age in East-West relations.

Government officials in Bonn add that night frost must of course be expected. It was hard to imagine the Geneva talks simply continuing once Nato had acted on the two sides' failure to reach agreement.

The Kremlin has invested too much prestige in the issue for this to happen, it is argued.

Planners in Washington and Bonn expect the Soviet Union to react with harsh gestures to the beginning of missile modernisation. Talks between the superpowers might well be interrupted.

But in its own interest Moscow would probably return to the conference table after a chilly spell.

That would mark the beginning of a new stage of talks about more than mere missile modernisation in Europe. It would be a matter of balanced reduction of medium-range missiles in both Europe and, in all probability, the Far East.

A gloomier view would have it that the Soviet leaders are waiting to see who makes the running in the US presidential elections next autumn.

While hoping the situation might then be more favourable from the Soviet

Continued on page 3



### Gulf between yes and no

The SPD has voted by 383 to 14 with 3 abstentions to oppose missile deployment. At a special national party congress in Cologne, former Chancellor Helmut Schmidt (above left) led the unsuccessful bid to continue the pro-missile policy. Another former Chancellor, Willy Brandt (at right) was at the spearhead of the anti-missile faction. (See page 3). (Photo: Barbara Klemm)

## ■ WORLD AFFAIRS

## Nature of Lebanon at the heart of the problem

What is this Lebanon? An American military base... a Soviet bastion... an Arab state... an independent country?" asked Druze leader Walid Jumblatt at the Lebanese reconciliation conference in Geneva.

Lebanon is also Israeli and Syrian occupied territory and a battlefield for the Palestinians who are fighting a civil war in Lebanon but have no country of their own.

Even the Lebanese politicians felt so unsafe on top of the powderkeg in their own country that they decided to hold their reconciliation conference in Switzerland.

Despite their accumulated grievances, delegates quickly reached agreement on a statement defining Lebanon's national

identity. It described Lebanon as a free, sovereign and independent state.

The Christians, the dominant pro-Western front, were taken down a peg or two when the statement also satisfied Muslim demands by defining the country also as an active member of the Arab League.

But the formula is barely worth the paper it is written on.

Lebanon's unity began to crumble in 1970 at the latest when the Palestinian troops that had been chased out of Jordan settled in Lebanon's south and gradually established a state within the state.

Christian politicians often mention the Palestinian invasion as proof of their assertion that the militant disputes in their country are not a civil war but have been imported.

The political power ratio negotiated in 1943, which divided political posts and parliamentary mandates between the country's 17 religious groups, worked smoothly until the Palestinians came, the Christians say.

Why did the presence of the Palestinians suddenly encourage the Muslim population to exert heavier domestic pressure on the Christians?

And was there not a Christian-Muslim dispute in 1958 (under the influence of Egypt's Nasserism) that went so far that the Americans had to intervene?

The domestic situation in Lebanon was no longer rosy when the Palestinians arrived in 1970.

The Muslims had long held that they were in the majority over the Christians and pressed for a change of the power ratio in their favour.

It is relatively easy to sketch which occupation force is stationed where, where the American, French, Italian and British peace force is located and where the front between the feuding Palestinians lies.

But it is less easy to untangle the rivaling Lebanese groupings: the Christians, Sunnites, Shiites, Druzes, family clans and other religious and ethnic groups, all with their own militias.

The general confusion was reflected in the Geneva conference.

Dieter Schröder  
(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 17 November 1983)

The shock waves caused by the unilateral declaration of independence by the Turkish populated northern sector of Cyprus have been felt most acutely in Athens.

The proclamation of an independent state of northern Cyprus could easily split NATO's southern flank at a time when the Western defence alliance is only superficially united on the issue of new American medium range missiles in Europe.

The declaration of independence also coincides with American, French and Italian naval vessels being stationed off the Lebanese coast in the immediate vicinity of Cyprus.

Will it do any good to put the matter before the UN Security Council?

There is no force that could make the 25,000 Turkish troops now stationed in Cyprus return home. And the UN peace-keeping force that was sent to Cyprus earlier did not exactly convey the image of determination.

Diplomatic circles anxiously ask themselves what prompted the Turkish

## Cyprus UDI a threat to Nato flank

Cypriot leader, Rauf Denktaş, to choose this particular moment for a policy of accomplished facts.

Did he seize the opportunity of a brief post-election vacuum in Turkey while the military is still weakened and the civilian government not yet fully capable of acting?

This seems to be substantiated by the unconfirmed news that Ankara unsuccessfully tried to stop Denktaş.

The Cyprus situation is unique in international law. The country has been independent since 1960. Since the abortive putsch by the Greek colonels against the president of Cyprus, Archbishop Makarios, the country — though split in two — was nominally still one state under President Spyros Kyprianou.

The group of the National Salvation Front that opposes the Beirut government consisted not only of Muslims. There was also a prominent Christian among them who is engaged in a personal family feud with the clan of Christian President Amin Gemayel.

Maybe the West really stood by idly for too long as developments in Lebanon took their course.

This, in any event, is what the Israelis maintained until they finally felt that they had to intervene to restore order.

Christian Lebanese politicians also waited in vain for Western assistance during the severe civil war of 1975/76.

But would such assistance, with the possibility of a military intervention as in 1958, not have involved the Arabs and possibly the Soviets as well, causing more than just Lebanese complications?

Washington believed that it could disregard the Syrians. The agreement that came about therefore involved only Beirut and Jerusalem in the ill-advised hope that the Syrians would follow suit of their own accord.

But it is evident that Syria's President Hafez Assad has not dropped his plans for a Greater Syria that would include Lebanon.

Assad's support for the Palestinians rebelling against Yasser Arafat is also no more than a bid for another power factor: a PLO that would give priority to militant action against Israel over diplomacy.

The Syrian president can count on being backed by Moscow, which wants to match Washington in terms of Middle East presence.

But by the same token, the Soviets make a point of not going too far for fear of a direct confrontation with the Americans.

As long as they maintain this stance there still remains a back door to an East-West accommodation on Lebanon.

But the tug-of-war between the superpowers over missiles makes it difficult to envisage such a compromise.

There is even less hope that all occupation forces now in Lebanon will leave from one day to the next and that the Lebanese will be able to realise the unity they put on paper in Geneva.

The more likely outcome is a country divided into three parts: a Syrian-dominated, an Israeli-governed and a torso Lebanon centering around Beirut.

Reiner Dederichs  
(Kölnischer Stadt-Anzeiger, 15 November 1983)

Now the northern part is to become a member of the non-aligned movement while the south remains in NATO's sphere of influence.

In view of the deep-rooted hatred between the two ethnic and religious groups, only incorrigible optimists can regard the political structure created by Denktaş as viable.

The newly proclaimed state creates more instability and tension, especially after its recognition by Turkey.

The Cyprus affair is only one more link in a long chain of examples showing how local political disputes can become more explosive than the arsenals of the superpowers.

The developments in Cyprus are a blow to NATO. The defence alliance headed by America has demonstrated its inability to find a sweeping solution to this local dispute, or at least to defuse it. Europe's outpost in the Eastern Mediterranean, the stepping stone to the Middle East, has become shaky.

Wolfgang Saile  
(Rheinische Post, 16 November 1983)

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There were rumours that the party would not accept the results of the election and would reverse the move towards democracy.

But this would have been out of character for the military regime, which is committed to the West as a NATO member, the European Council and the EEC.

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g political pressure to posit

**We are members of Nato and not in a position where we might have to appeal**

...in the early capitals



ling on both sides. Cochlaeus and Erasmus of Rotterdam

and his humanist associates.

The only people who paid no attention to Luther's accusations were the Archbishop of Mainz and his Curia.

Nothing hurts a learned German more than being ignored in this way. Luther's justified objections were joined by the

The Church refused to see where,

Luther was angry and determined to

As events took their course the Reformer, an Augustinian monk, became

former, an Augustinian monk, poet, writer and completely dominated the German book market.

**Karl-Jürgen Mieser**  
(Rheinische Post, 5 November 1990)

**Karl-Jürgen Mieser**

(Rheinische Post, 5 November 1933)

## ■ BUSINESS

## Big construction plant maker is out of cash

The world's third largest maker of construction machinery, IBH, has gone to court to seek protection from creditors through composition, a type of insolvency proceedings.

Horst-Dieter Esch, head of IBH Holding AG, did not think that he could overtake the biggest construction machinery maker in the world, Caterpillar. But he wanted to become number two.

But the ambitions of the most fascinating German businessman of the 1970s, were dashed when his principle lender, SMH-Bank, itself had to be bailed out by a consortium of banks.

That left Esch with no option but to apply to court for protection from creditors through composition. The chances are that IBH, which has annual sales of DM2.5bn and a payroll of 10,000, will not recover.

Insiders such as banks and competitor companies have anticipated trouble for years and they are likely to be proved right.

It is still not clear whether SMH-Bank's collapse caused IBH to totter or whether it was the other way round. But the fact is that the relatively young equipment maker did not have the financial strength to come through a crisis.

It is also true that Esch never managed to win the confidence of the major banks. He was therefore forced into a riskier reliance on SMH, a bank founded in 1968 through the merger of three private banks (See story on page 7).

Esch's personality is an essential clue to the problem. His business philosophy was basically sound, and remains so even in retrospect.

He realised from the beginning that a major construction machinery manufacturer could weather national economic ups and downs only by maintaining production facilities in all major industrial countries.

But even people whom he talked into backing him often regarded him as a gambler and loudmouth who, at an age (he is now 40) when others were still junior executives, believed that he could outperform experienced managers. That couldn't (perhaps shouldn't) work.

Esch's rise began in the USA where he studied business administration in Utah and Los Angeles.

He worked his way through university as a ticket checker in a drive-in movie.

On his flight back to Germany in 1967, the newly graduated Master of Business Administration happened to be sitting next to the chief executive of Duomat, a German construction machinery company.

The two had a long chat, and before the plane landed in Frankfurt, Esch had landed a job as a sales assistant.

He was quickly promoted to head the US branch office which Duomat maintained together with the British construction machinery dealer John Blackwood-Hodge.

Impressed by his sales successes, the British company a few months later made Esch their European head of sales. Esch, bristling with imagination and



Horst-Dieter Esch... foiled ambition, (Photo: Archiv)

ever ready to take a risk — he played for high stakes at backgammon — used his new employer to amass personal capital.

He speculated in Blackwood-Hodge shares and, staking everything on a hunch, made a rapid DM1m in 1972. That was the starting capital for his IBH.

His aim from the very beginning was to use his business concept to make IBH one of the world's largest construction machinery concerns with annual sales of DM4bn to DM5bn. What he wanted was Internationale Baumaschinen-Holding, an international construction machinery holding company.

His plans met with widespread scepticism, especially in view of the construction industry crisis caused by the sharp oil-price increase of the early 1970s.

Even the Registrar of Companies refused to register the new company under the ambitious name and cut it down to three letters: IBH.

Esch's opportunity came when most of Germany's medium-sized construction machinery makers found themselves in the red because of the crisis.

The management quality in many family businesses was next to zero. But 20 years of boom had papered this over, and it was not until the crisis struck that the shortcomings became obvious. Esch started collecting companies like apples.

Many owners were glad to get rid of their businesses and sold for next to nothing.

Esch grabbed every company whose range of products seemed promising, it didn't matter if it was losing money or had obsolete production facilities.

Eyebrows were raised as without much money of his own and without dependable backing, the son of a locksmith bought one ailing company after another.

By the end of 1978 he had four German firms under the IBH roof, including Duomat, his first employer.

The buying spree continued until the end of 1982. In France, he took over Deruppe; Maco Meudon and Pingon. In Britain it was Hymac and Winget. In Blaw Knox and in Germany Hanomag and Wibau.

General Motors, then in financial trouble, sold him its construction machinery subsidiary, Terex, with production facilities in the USA, Brazil and Scotland.

It was of little use to Esch that he could eventually point to an illustrious circle of IBH shareholders.

The financially strongest were General Motors and the Saudi Arabian Dallah Est Co. (each with a 19.6 per cent stake in IBH), the British firms Powell

Continued on page 8

## Family influence fades on machinery manufacturer

Klaus Götte has replaced Manfred Lennings as chief of the Oberhausen plant and machinery firm Gutehoffnungshütte Aktienverein (GHH).

Götte, 51, a former Flick partner, was nominally only a simply supervisory board member of the GHH subsidiary, MAN.

But since the beginning of the year he had belonged to the inner leadership circle of GHH, Europe's leading heavy machinery company (annual sales close to DM19bn) with special duties as an ideologist.

The changing of the guard had been well prepared behind the scenes. Götte was voted into his new post without fuss and bother.

He is the first man at the top of GHH who is not the nominee of the founder family, Haniel.

The withdrawal of the founder family was evidenced by yet another personnel decision: to prevent a neck-and-neck vote in which the chairman of the supervisory board would have had to bring his casting vote to bear on the resignation of Lennings (once nominated by him) family spokesman Klaus Haniel resigned from the board at the beginning of the meeting.

He was replaced by the former BASF chief executive Matthias Seefelder. For the first time in 110 years, the chairman of the supervisory board is not a member of the Haniel clan.

This dual change at the top of GHH reflects the changing stockholder structure.

The once dominant founder family has in the past decades become increasingly insignificant, both financially and managerially.

The Haniel's stake has dwindled to 12 per cent. The dominant influence now rests with the Regina Group's 26 per cent. The Group's holdings were provided



Manfred Lennings... odd issue to resign over. (Photo: J. H. Darchinger)

by the Allianz Insurance Co. (75 per cent) and Commerzbank (25 per cent).

The changeover from Lennings to Götte was thus not masterminded by GHH's supervisory board but by the owners of the Regina Group.

Georg Benz, formerly executive board member of the metalworkers union, IG Metall, and labour representative on the GHH supervisory board: "Our co-determination rights have been grossly violated. We're mere extras here."

Benz described Lennings as a "man of outstanding ability." This makes it the



Klaus Götte... a meteoric rise.

more surprising that somebody whose company had praised only him while ago should now have been replaced.

This was not a case of a man who had manoeuvred his way into a hopeless crisis.

Lennings — who kept his subjects on a long leash in keeping with the corporate tradition — was too fully recognising MAN's problems, especially in the sectors of construction vehicles and marine diesel engines.

This led to operating losses last year of close to DM300m, naturally caused some unrest among shareholders.

But nobody had any doubts about Lennings' ability to overcome the problems within the next few years. They were purely structural and partly by the recession.

Even Götte sees no difference between his own rescue plans and Lennings'.

Lennings' surprise resignation was a thing to do with objective business reasons.

The 18-line communiqué on the supervisory board session vaguely spoke of "differences of views on personnel and organisational matters."

But closer scrutiny reveals this to be a secondary procedural dispute — especially compared with the loss of thousands of jobs due to the crash cure for MAN.

Citing Section 105 of the German law on public companies, Lennings had to have himself elected for only one year to the management board of the subsidiary MAN. He felt that by taking over the management reins he could bring the listing ship back on an even keel.

His fellow board member Siegfried Schiffbauer was also earmarked for a temporary place on the MAN management board on top of his duties at GHH head office.

This meant that MAN's chief financial officer, Gerd Wolburg, who was blamed for a number of the company's flops, would have to vacate his seat on the board.

This plan was opposed not only by the Commerzbank's supervisory board chairman, Paul Lichtenberg, but also by half of Allianz, was trying to

Continued on page 7

## FINANCE

## Bank crash averted as consortium steps in with DM600m rescue package

rescue operation has been mounted to save a German bank from going to the wall. A deal amounting to about DM600m has plugged the hole at SMH. It was a tense time for German banks. A new scandal would have shaken confidence of investors.

It was not the sheer size of the sums involved that caused the tension. More important was that one of the bank's senior partners, Alwin Münchmeyer, was many years president of the national conference of German banks and the leading conference of German chambers of commerce and industry.

He had long retired from involvement in bank's day-to-day business, which was under the control of his son, Hermann.

SMH-Bank (from a contraction of Süddeutsche, Münchmeyer, Hengst & Co) was formed on 1 January 1968 through a merger of three long-established private banks.

The crisis arose when borrowers of DM900m lent by SMH found themselves in trouble and repayments were two into doubt.

The DM900m accounted for close to a third of the assets of SMH (just under DM2.2bn at the end of 1982) and its Hamburg subsidiary (with assets of DM1.1bn).

The German banking supervision au-

## SONNTAGS BLATT

thority in Berlin has accepted only DM300m of the collateral as sound.

One of the main problems was that a major portion of the loans money was accounted for by the Mainz-based IBH construction machinery group of Horst-Dieter Esch (See story page 6).

While German banking laws impose strict lending limits — maximum 75 per cent of a bank's capital — Luxembourg knows no such restrictions.

Faced with over-extension, the four personally liable SMH owners had no choice but to tell Bundesbank President Karl Otto Pöhl.

Pöhl and the president of the Berlin Banking Supervision Authority, Inge Lore Bähre, instantly launched a dramatic rescue operation.

Though the solution they arrived did have problems, it benefited the whole banking community.

A special deposit insurance fund operated by the banks jumped into the breach with DM150m. A consortium of 20 banks converted DM450m of SMH's lines of credit into capital with second place liability.

The total package amounted to a bit

## Three of 590,000 WELT readers.



Hans Thoms, President of the Association of German Banks.



Dr. H. Helmut Fiege, President of the Association of German Banks.



Franz Hietmann, Chairman of the Supervisory Board of the Deutsche Bank A.G.

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## DIE WELT

UNABHÄNGIGE TAGESZEITUNG FÜR DEUTSCHLAND

## Decision makers' daily in Germany.

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In concrete terms: if Deutsche Bank (whose position is above even the slightest suspicion) were taken as a yardstick each customer would be insured for DM1.5bn — an unbeatable deposit insurance.

The savings banks and Volksbanken have different insurance systems. They both act to support banks in trouble before it is too late. This is probably the most elegant solution to the problem.

Another difference between SMH and Herstatt is that the Herstatt Bank actually collapsed while the SMH Bank received a healthy money injection, and stays in operation.

Still, the SMH scandal has revealed two important points.

The first is that the collapse of IBH shows the main mistake of so many vertical take-off companies of all sizes in post-war Germany. In their growth euphoria before the latest international economic slump, they ignored the need for a solid financial cushion. They wanted growth to outstrip the very liquidity needed to protect them from collapse in a crisis.

And the second is that some bankers lack the integrity their customers have a right to expect of them. Too many banks have been too careless in handling customers' money.

Private banks and even state central banks have repeatedly come under criticism on this. The same applies to the incomprehensible mammoth-loans by major German banks to shaky Third World and East Bloc countries. Have the banks bitten off more than they can chew?

In any event, the SMH affair is likely to change the German banking landscape.

The freedom German subsidiaries have enjoyed in Luxembourg is likely to end. The supervision authority will have to tighten up.

Heinrich Thoms  
(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 13 November 1983)

Continued from page 6

out a structural concept for MAN in collaboration with its managers.

Then Götte held that the head of a holding company could not be on constant trouble-shooting missions, rushing from one subsidiary to the next.

This, he said, would only be necessary if the MAN management board were unable to come up with a concept of its own or if it had not implemented a rescue plan approved by all.

Lennings has not yet come up with a clear answer to the question why he did not want to become the chairman of the MAN supervisory board and so help solve that company's structural problems in conjunction with its management board. He would certainly have been able to do this.

The fact that Lennings offered to resign over a conflict of much lesser significance indicates that he believed that the Regina Group intended to dismantle him piece by piece.

When Allianz delegated Götte to act on its behalf, Lennings must have realised that his executive qualities were increasingly being put into question by the shareholders.

There are two main reasons why the changing of the guard went off rather smoothly despite the fact that some supervisory board members of the two major shareholders were pretty visibly disenchanted.

Any continuation of the wrangling over personnel matters would have damaged the company's reputation still further. And nobody doubts that the Lennings opponents picked a man of

undisputed managerial abilities when opting for Götte.

Götte, a law graduate from Lower Saxony, has had as meteoric a career as his predecessor.

After graduating (with studies into the status of the United Nations in terms of international law), Götte first worked for the Düsseldorf-based private bank C.G. Trinka. In 1968, Günter Vogel-sung, Krupp's chief executive, offered him the job of head of finances.

In 1972, he moved on to the board of Allianz where he was primarily in charge of the huge group's investments. His familiarity with GHH affairs dates back to that time.

His only mistake was to have joined the Düsseldorf Flick concern in 1980. When sole owner Friedrich Karl Flick dismissed his partners, Eberhard von Brauchitsch and Hanns Arnt Vogels late last year, Götte quit.

He knows better than anybody else that the job awaiting him at the helm of GHH will be tough.

In the past months, Götte made a point of visiting all major MAN facilities to get a picture of the problems.

But viable concepts for those sectors of production that are in difficulties now will not be enough in the long run.

The concern became too bogged down in classical heavy machinery under Klaus Haniel and Manfred Lennings.

If the GHH star is to shine again, Klaus Götte will have to open up new modern technology markets: "I know that there's a lot to be done."

Hans Otto Eglau  
(Die Zeit, 11 November 1983)



## ■ THE STEEL INDUSTRY

## Plans for merger between two giants falls through

The planned merger of West Germany's two biggest steelmakers, seen as a key element in Bonn's strategy to pull the industry out of crisis, has collapsed.

The two steel groups, Krupp and Thyssen, never really trusted each other in the merger talks that began in June 1982.

No sooner had the talks broken down than the chief executives of both parties pulled out complete blueprints for going it alone.

The merger fundered on money. Some says Thyssen was too greedy. Some say Bonn was too tightfisted.

Krupp people blame Thyssen more than Bonn, saying that Thyssen had "put the monetary obstacle too high."

Thyssen chairman Dieter Spethmann differs: "We went to the limit," he says.

And when told that Thyssen was accused by some of seeing everything from a book-keeper's perspective, he said: "That's stupid and unsubstantiated talk."

It is no secret why the two groups, which as recently as 19 October had reached agreement in principle after a marathon round of talks, now hold such

different views on the failure of the merger plan.

Thyssen regards the steel sector as a permanent part of the concern. Krupp, on the other hand, wanted to get rid of steel to prevent other parts of the organisation from being affected by steel's troubles.

This seems substantiated by the admission by Alfons Göttsche, chairman of Krupp Stahl AG, that his company would have agreed to less than the 25 per cent stake Thyssen proposed Krupp should have in the joint steel company.

Krupp needs some way out of its problems. The company is unable to pay this year's contractually agreed Christmas bonus in one lot. Contrary to the contract worked out in collective bargaining, half of the bonus is to be deferred until next year.

It is difficult to pin the blame for the failure of the merger plans on any one party. Even Bonn Economic Affairs Minister Count Lambsdorff refuses to commit himself, according to a Ministry press release.

But while unwilling to comment on the reasons for the breakdown of the talks, he is outspoken on the consequences: streamlining benefits to the tune of DM400m a year will now be lost.

The two groups involved don't contradict. Though their concepts for operating alone will also save money compared with the present situation, the saving would be greater had they merged.

But the merger would also have resulted in more layoffs than the 8,500 planned by Thyssen and the 4,000 at Krupp.

Heinz Kriwet, chairman of Thyssen Stahl (the steel branch of the group), expects only short-lived benefits from the more moderate layoffs to be implemented now because many rationalisation possibilities would not be fully exploited.

Since Thyssen and Krupp make up about half of Germany's steel industry and the other half has so far not even considered a merger, many rationalisation possibilities worth about DM800m a year will go to waste.

But neither Count Lambsdorff nor his North Rhine-Westphalian opposite number, Reimut Jochimsen, see any way of forcing the steelmakers into wedded bliss.

## State cash grant pulls Arbed back from the deathbed

An immediate DM50m boost of state money has given steel manufacturer Arbed Saarstahl a chance of survival.

But neither the Federal government in Bonn nor the Saar state government is prepared to say that the company, with its payroll of 17,200, has been saved.

They refer to a statement by the Arbed management, saying that the company will not need more public money after 1986.

Until then, Arbed Saarstahl, which has so far cost the taxpayer DM3bn, will continue to need government help.

As part of the deal, all workers must retire at 50. A mediating panel decided this against the vote of the overall Arbed works council and the metalworkers union.

Dieter Piel  
(Die Zeit, 11 November 1983)

It is not the public sector's function to relieve companies of managerial decisions or to prejudice such decisions by detailed terms and conditions, says a Bonn Economic Affairs Ministry statement. As Reimut Jochimsen sees it, everything is wide open once again, especially the moderators' plan backed by the Bonn government: "Everybody can now go ahead and negotiate with anybody he chooses." He does not discount the possibility that Krupp and Hoesch will now again start merger talks although the originally planned merger between them that would have resulted in a proposed Ruhrstahl AG failed last year. The failure of the moderators' model to materialise is less dire than the loss of time caused by wrangling over it.

As long as Thyssen and Krupp negotiated, all other parties stood in the wings. Only Hoesch was actually active in a bid to put together its concept for going it alone.

Bonn, on the other hand, did nothing to bring the other merger candidates Hoesch, Klöckner and Salzgitter - to the bargaining table.

It probably reckoned that once Thyssen and Krupp had merged everything else would fall into place.

Now, Bonn is faced with the wreckage of its half-hearted restructuring policy.

The liquidity bottlenecks that have been a way of life with Arbed Saarstahl could now easily spread to other steelmakers.

The situation on the steel market is not exactly conducive to alleviating such problems. The German market is flooded with imports that have depressed pri-

ces. If imported steel were offered at same prices as the German variety, import quota would not be 40 to 50 per cent but four to five per cent, says Reimut Jochimsen.

But imported steel sells for DM1200 a ton less than German steel. "90 per cent of its comes from countries with highly subsidised steel industries," says Kriwet.

The president of the German Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Rolf Brickenstein, sees little chance of getting out of the crisis through import controls.

"What good is it for our companies to reduce production costs by DM500 a ton when foreign companies are subsidised to the tune of DM200 a ton?" asks Brickenstein.

Count Lambsdorff: "My government will not put up with having jobs in Germany's efficient steel industry jeopardised by market distortions due to subsidies."

He says Bonn's current aim is to keep the German production within the Community at the level of the past few years.

This would mean that Bonn would have to rescue troubled steelmakers when necessary because Brussels market guidelines provide for quotas for a specific company to lapse only months after a bankruptcy.

This means that the collapse of a German company would in no way benefit other German steelmakers. Instead, it would benefit foreign competitors.

But this provision expires on 31 January 1984, and no extension is at present being offered.

Bonn would be well advised to take a change because Germany's primary-owned steel companies are more susceptible to bankruptcy than the state-owned or semi-nationalised companies in neighbouring countries.

Heinz-Günter Kemmer  
(Die Zeit, 11 November 1983)



A hot time for steel.

(Photo: J. H. Dorn)

## COMMUNICATIONS

## What the electronic crystal ball says

## MEIN ZEIT

Bonn Bundestag has just debated the new media, and about time it may be talk of missile modernisation and tree deaths, of structural crises and unemployment, but the cable industry, inexorably dawning.

But guess what it will hold in All that can be said for sure is the major challenges in current the communications revolution to fill many with fear and fore-

Bundestag was unable to provide a sense of relief. Political parties too disagreed on media policy. The parliamentary debate in Bonn marked the beginning of a discussion beyond the level of media and expert committees.

It has for far too long been the case for dealing with technological problems that urgently need discussion a wider public and explaining their repercussions will soon be

debate on our electronic future have got off to a slow start, but there have by no means been enough reasons. There are other reasons.

General curiosity has naturally been in check by the very complexity of the subject. The new media are so full of possibilities it is hard to keep track of them

where coaxial cable and digitalised phone systems, satellites and optical pay TV and videotex are contained. The prospects often go beyond the powers of imagination of the average consumer.

But is why there has been nothing but a quiet reaction so far to the fundamental question, which is whether the new media can be trusted up by cable, would data, text and extra TV programmes be cabled into all our homes?

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(Die Zeit, 11 November 1983)

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Progress rolls on.

(Photo: Kurt Heinrich)

It is that the Federal Republic of Germany may be a first-rate industrialised country in performance, but not in its basic attitude towards technology. A country that is to maintain such high standards will need to show courage, commitment and imagination in the long term. Other countries currently seem much more readily prepared to commit themselves to the shape of technologies to come.

That is not to say that American enthusiasm about computers, Japanese obsession with electronics and French nonchalance in dealing with atomic energy need necessarily be emulated.

All that is needed is to appreciate how little hue and cry there has been about the cable revolution in other countries.

Seven out of 10 Swiss homes are cabled up (partly due to geographical conditions). In Austria the percentage is 35, in the United States 57.

Does danger lie ahead if we decide to follow suit? Political parties are now debating the pros and cons, and the fronts are taking shape as slides are taken.

The Federal government is strongly in favour of stepping up expansion of the cable network, with Posts and Telecom Minister Christian Schwarz-Schilling leading the faithful.

As the man in charge of the telecom monopoly he conjures visions of a rose-tinted cable future.

He, unlike even many fellow-Christian Democrats, is convinced conversion of the cable network will create tens of thousands of new jobs.

He also claims that the cable revolution will result in exportable technologies being developed and in additional

## 6 Fears that an increase in programmes will tend to stupefy the viewing public 9

radio and TV programmes boosting the range of views voiced.

The Opposition is less enthusiastic. It is doubtful about the value of converting the grid as a means of job creation.

It is afraid that electronic rationalisation may prove detrimental in its effect on the labour market.

It warns that radio and TV programmes inflation may tend to stupefy the listening and viewing public and is worried that conservative forces alone will stand to benefit.

A number of arguments on both sides owe more to party-political egoism than to concern for the public good.

As in other cases of far-reaching change, the cable revolution is partly a matter of maintaining existing positions and extending spheres of influence.

That is why two key questions are not answered in the party-political dispute. They are:

First, how are we to set about cabling the country up? The Ministry's urge to go ahead is in keeping with what is technically feasible and economically necessary.

An industrialised country must take advantage of the opportunities electronics provides of ensuring faster, more comprehensive and storable information.

But the Bundespost has taken a step in the wrong direction by deciding to truss up the entire country in coaxial cable costing billions (estimates range from DM20bn to DM50bn).

The benefits to be derived from this outlay are negligible, amounting in the final analysis to additional relay facilities for a few extra TV programmes.

In the communications sector there are better uses to which the taxpayer's money could be put. Spending on a digitalised telephone network should prove more profitable, for one.

It could provide a much better service at much less expense, relaying data and stationary images by the dialog process.

Optical cable is already available as the most important medium for the future. German industry can already manufacture it and the equipment needed to convert optical into electronic signals.

But restraint is called for, given countrywide expenditure totalling between DM100bn and DM300bn. A more sensible and politically meaningful investment would be to leave industry to get on with it in built-up areas.

Let it raise its own capital to finance experiments, while maintaining the Bundespost's telecom monopoly for purposes of supervision.

That would save the government money and us all unpleasant experiences with the experimental stages.

Second, are we going to be inundated with cable radio and TV programmes? The technical scene certainly seems to be on the point of being set for a horror scenario.

There does seem to be an alarming prospect of a confusing variety pouring forth from loudspeakers and screens, of programmes at tabloid level, of influence being wielded by media entrepreneurs without the possibility of control and of the entire country being snowed under by programmes relayed via foreign satellite transmitters.

These are keywords that stand for a communications catastrophe with political and social repercussions that would be sure to go far beyond anything one could predict.

Yet there is no need for nightmares. There are limits to the number of programmes that could be beamed at us.

Cable radio and TV is an expensive venture. A national cable TV network on

a commercial basis would, it is estimated, run at a loss for probably a decade.

There is a limit to the advertising budgets of German companies. Doubts have already arisen as to whether existing ventures in commercial TV will earn enough to make ends meet.

It will also be extremely difficult to produce enough programme material to mark time between advertising slots.

Pilot projects in Ludwigshafen and Munich have shown what an obstacle race private TV can be, although their slow start could yet gain momentum.

The cable revolution opens up incalculable options, both good and bad. It can make services easier and cheaper. It can speed up the flow of information to an enormous extent. It can rationalise production.

But the electronic autobahn network set up by the new media may prove

## 6 Bundespost has made a wrong choice by deciding to truss the nation in coaxial cable 9

equally dangerous. Cable communications may be too demanding on us all, cutting us off from society and making our labour superfluous.

It conjures visions of Orwell's two-way TV in 1984, a bitter foretaste of which we in Germany were given in the Third Reich, the era of the Volksempfänger, or all-pervading Nazi radio.

With so many options open and questions unanswered it is up to politicians to lay down the framework within which data abuse and destructive overexposure to audiovisual stimuli are forestalled.

It is up to them to strike a balance between the profit and loss of the new technology.

Since cable grids will be an indispensable part of the infrastructure of modern industrialised countries, mere opposition is no solution.

Nothing but the determination to exercise political control over technological developments will hold forth the prospect of the benefits outweighing the drawbacks.

Will cable society in 20 or 30 years be a better informed and more productive society? Thoreau hit on the fundamental issue at stake over 130 years ago when he noted: "We are going to great lengths to establish a telegraphic link between Maine and Texas, but maybe Maine and Texas have nothing important to tell each other."

What will we have to tell each other via the communications network of the future?

Dieter Buhl  
(Die Zeit, 11 November 1983)

## ■ LITERATURE

## Discovery of lost Grimm fairy tale not the sensation it is claimed to be

**Frankfurter Allgemeine**

US news agencies have excitedly announced the discovery of a lost fairy tale from the collection made by the Brothers Grimm.

It is said to be possibly the only Grimm manuscript outside the Bodmer Library in Geneva.

We have had to accustom ourselves to the idea of increasingly expecting new ideas in the arts to hail from America and of giving them an enthusiastic welcome as soon as they are heralded.

Bruno Bettelheim's far from new psychoanalytical interpretation of dreams was recently greeted with enthusiastic acclaim on this basis.

But the announcement that the Grimm manuscript is to be published with full annotations in the United States puts a damper on initial scepticism.

Peter Demetz, the Yale professor, is quoted in this connection as having said that the Brothers Grimm were among the most outstanding figures in culture and civilisation.

The manuscript, which had found a new home in the United States, was thus extremely important.

The brilliant book illustrator Maurice Sendak is reported to plan getting down to work immediately on the fairy tale because he feels it is wonderful, beautiful and touching.

And as the manuscript changed hands for over \$26,000 it would seem to merit closer consideration after all.

In 1816 Wilhelm Grimm wrote a letter to a so far unidentified "Dear Mill!" in which he told a tale beginning with the time-honoured formula: "Once upon a time."

It is the tale of a girl who is sent into the woods by her mother because of the risk of war. There she meets an old man and works as his servant for three days.

When they part he tells her he is St Joseph and gives her a rosebud. When it flowers she will be able to return to him.

A guardian angel takes her back to her old mother (who has aged because it was really 30 years, not three days). They both die on meeting again, and between them the rosebud flowers.

If the buyer of the manuscript is worried the tale might already have been published and were to demand his money back if that had been the case, let him rest assured. It hasn't.

First, Wilhelm Grimm obviously felt it was too poor or uncharacteristic and as a result didn't mention it in his annotation of the collected fairy tales (which he normally would have done).

Second, he didn't even keep a copy of the tale he told in the letter. There is certainly no trace of one in his literary remains.

That makes the letter none the less interesting for specialists in the Brothers Grimm or in fairy tales, but less so for the general reader with an interest in fairy tales.

The tale is by no means as original as it is made out to be either.

First, it is not a text the Brothers Grimm felt was ready to go to the prin-

ters. They didn't even authorise it in their usual way as an important find.

Second, it is not even unique in having been told in a letter written to a child. In 1953 Wilhelm Schoof published half a dozen such letters owned by Marburg University library.

They were written in spring 1808 by Jacob Grimm to the Savigny children and reveal important early stages of the tales as told in the 1812 published collection of Grimm's fairy tales.

Unlike the manuscript now discovered, they were written four years before the fairy tales were published, and not four years afterwards.

The 1808 letters are extremely important but have gone unnoticed by a wider public.

It is disconcerting to see that US experts are unaware of the existence of a book twice reprinted and clearly entitled *Fairy Tales from the Literary Remains of the Brothers Grimm*.

It contains previously unpublished Grimm fairy tales manuscripts from their Berlin literary remains. It also comments on the entire situation with regard to Grimm manuscripts.

The manuscripts at the Bodmer Libra-

ry in Geneva are only the "original manuscripts" on which the 1812 collection was partly based.

Other manuscripts have survived not only in Berlin but also, for instance, in Marburg and Kassel.

What, then, about the tale told by Wilhelm Grimm in 1816? It is clearly a 19th century-style children's tale, and not a genuine fairy tale.

This conclusion is indicated by both the characters of the saint and the angel and the ending of the tale.

The idea of the heroine returning home and dying is decidedly anti-fairy tale, as is the idea of her mother having aged.

Genuine fairy tale characters don't age and heroes and heroines don't die. The tale as told is merely a variation on one of the published Grimm's children's stories.

These stories have been appended to the fairy tales proper since the second edition of the tales was published in 1819.

The first story tells the tale of St Joseph in the woods, and the version told in the 1816 letter is a slightly longer one.

It contains a number of additions: wandering motifs, foreign students enrolling at German universities have been amended following the regulations designed to prevent foreign students enrolling at German universities.

The second story, *Die drei Kinder im Wald*, which have heavily regulated the number of foreign students, is rosebud by the infant Jesus, on bureaucratic hindrances and when it flowers they will bring tactics.

The child dies, then the rosebud, as the amendments have led to the government has got it.

As all these stories were written by the Brothers Grimm by a family of noblemen, the von Handen, identical motifs in the newly published tale would seem to indicate a source.

Wilhelm Grimm may have thought the tale was merely a variation on motifs found elsewhere and was of little real value.

### Mill lends an ear

But rather than make no mention of it to Mill, whoever she has been: no less, but no more.

This version is of interest to a specialist, but otherwise it seems a case of much ado about nothing. It could but wish the media would pay more attention to German news than the Brothers Grimm.

In 1985 and 1986 there will be a centennial year of their respective deaths.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 17 October 1983)

## State government wants to buy DM6m 12th century manuscript

The Lower Saxony state government wants to buy what is believed to be the most valuable manuscript in private hands.

At the same time, it has abandoned a charge that the manuscript was illegally sent out of Germany shortly after the war.

The item is an illustrated manuscript of the gospels dated 1175 which outlines the contemporary Christian view of events at that time.

Involved in the story around the manuscript is the House of Hanover in the person of Prince Ernst-August, 69.

The manuscript deals with a famous ancestor of King Henry the Lion of Saxony, a member of what was later to be the House of Hanover.

The book was written for the King by the monks at Helmshausen monastery.

**Prince Ernst-August**

on the Weser and is one of the most outstanding examples of medieval manuscript art.

It is included in the catalogue of protected works of art listed in an Act of 6 August 1955 and as such may not be exported.

But the book has since been reported missing and did not reappear until the news came from London that it was to be put up for auction.

No-one knows where it has been, not even the state government of Lower Saxony, which had made inquiries, as the state assembly in Hanover was told.

All that is known is that it is expected to raise £1.6m, or about DM6.4m, and

was offered for sale to the British Museum shortly before the Second World War.

No-one is saying who made the offer (the House of Hanover is related to the British royal family), but in the event it was not taken up.

Dr Cassens, the Lower Saxon Minister of Education and Science, told the assembly in glowing terms how valuable the book was, but he failed to say who held it and who was entitled to it.

Until the end of the war the House of Hanover was its sole owner. It was now owned by a number of individuals. In spite of excited enquiries Dr Cassens was unable to say more.

He had been unable to find out whether the House of Hanover's rights of ownership were restricted in any way.

All available information indicates that the book left the territory of what is now the Federal Republic of Germany in about 1946.

That was why it was struck from the list of protected works of art in 1961. So he saw no way of taking legal action against the auction.

In this respect, he told the assembly, he was of the same opinion as the Bonn Ministry of the Interior.

Dr Cassens has no more to say for himself even though Herr Wernstedt, a Social Democratic assemblyman, expressed the feeling of the House in a spirited complaint.

He felt it was intolerable how the assembly was being led down the garden path by the House of Hanover. Dr Cassens tried to ease the pressure of criticism on the Prince; there are close ties between the state government and the former royal house.

Prince Ernst-August said three years ago that he no longer owned the goods

that were up for auction. On the condition he was suspected of having sold the collection of 18th century books to a table silver auctioned.

The collection, of about 60 books, had likewise been missing for a long time. It turned up at Sotheby's in New York in 1980.

It had belonged to the Prince of Hildesheim and was taken to the King of Hanover at the beginning of the 19th century when the kingdom was secularised.

His legal heirs were, from 1806, the kingdom and state of Prussia and, in 1946, the state of Lower Saxony. But Prince Ernst-August could not discuss on who owned the book was to be auctioned in Germany.

He had nothing to do with the auction. The silver had gone to Austria in 1920s, been sold there and was now owned by the House of Habsburg.

A Salzburg newspaper looking for a matter and found that no-one knew anything about silver tableware in the Hanoverian castle of Gmunden in Austria.

Sotheby's said the seller was a named Austrian, auctioned the book for DM5.5m and saw it go to at least three bidders.

One was the city of Hildesheim, of Hanover, which bought a few books for DM80,000. Another was a collector. A third was a Würzburg collector by the name of Neubauer, suspected of acting on behalf of the Bavarian government.

The silver was made in 1704 in Salzburg, Bavaria. It cost 30,000 thalers a year ago the House of Hanover paid roughly DM10m by selling a collection of 50,000 coins from the 16th and 19th centuries.

They too looked like being sold abroad. Two Lower Saxon banks paid DM3m each to keep the coins in the country. The remainder was given to a retired banker and art-lover, Josef Abs.

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 10 November 1983)

27 November 1983

## ■ EDUCATION

## Foreign students run the bureaucratic gauntlet

This is no isolated case. Applicants throughout Africa, Asia and Latin America have been involved in futile races against time.

German universities are being flooded with cables saying that visa and residence difficulties are preventing would-be students from meeting enrolment deadlines.

The West German Conference of University Rectors (WRK) says it is "shocked" by the regulations.

Bonn Aliens Commissioner Liselotte Funcke says they are "unhelpful". The SPD spoke of a "unique blend of intellectual and moral provincialism and unsurpassed stupidity."

The voices heard at academic centres for foreign students range from "incomprehensible" to "disgraceful." And Deputy FDP Chairman Jürgen Morlok said the whole thing was "inhuman and unworthy of a Christian party."

Until recently, West Germany's treatment of foreign students was regarded as exemplary. Six to eight per cent of available university places were reserved for foreigners, who were not subject to the feared *numerus clausus* (stiff minimum qualifications for certain faculties).

Many applicants refuse to believe that the German government is pursuing a lockout policy through a deadline gimmick.

Many enter Germany without the necessary papers, either out of ignorance about the new regulations or because they have been told by the German Embassy abroad to go to Germany anyway and that things would fall into place.

Applicants who have come to Germany with this hope and who have been told to return say that applications at the embassy have to be supported by a university acceptance and that missing the deadline for enrolment was deliberate.

The bureaucratic reaction has been to shrug it off.

The inevitable has now happened. The number of foreign first year students has dropped markedly.

Statistics of the German Teachers Union (GEW) and the World University Service show that the significant drop in foreign enrolments occurred as early as the summer semester of 1983: 37 out of 100 admitted applicants did not show up for enrolment. Many of the foreign students' centres describe this figure as "appalling high."

Of the 144 admitted applicants to Mannheim University, 61 did not enrol. Stuttgart University reports a 50 per cent no-show rate. So does Trier, the Darmstadt Technical University, the Wuppertal Comprehensive University and the Berlin Academy of Arts.

A Berlin faculty member says: "Foreign applicants who fall under the provisions of the 14th Ordinance can no longer enrol in time."

The deadline squeeze does not apply to nationals of the EEC and seven other nations with special status: USA, Spain, Switzerland, Austria, Monaco, Honduras and the Dominican Republic.

But just about all Third World applicants find themselves locked out.

The effects in terms of development: Development aid in the form of university education — put at DM600m to DM900m, depending on how it is figured — will automatically decline.

The training of students from developing countries is paid for by the states. This amount is the biggest single item outside the DM6.4bn budget of the Bonn Development Aid Ministry.

German development aid principles are also violated by the fact that our provision of university places for foreigners has degenerated into pure promotion of the elite.

Only financially privileged Third World students, those on scholarships and those studying under government exchange programmes can now study here. And it is doubtful whether this handpicked urban elite will later be prepared to work for the rural masses at home.

Understanding between peoples and cultural exchange have also suffered.

In the early post-war era, academics and politicians went out of their way to attract foreign students. There was an enormous need to regain international recognition because the isolation during the Nazi era had made German universities provincial.

Coloured students in particular were seen as symbols of universities' new open-mindedness and internationalism.

Bonn decided in September partly to "repair" its 14th Ordinance.

True to the principle "act first, think later," the education ministers, the WRK, the Academic Exchange Service and the Foreign Office have agreed to

introduce a special "university applicant's visa."

The provisions: anybody who can present the German Embassy with a secondary school leaving certificate comparable to the German *Abitur* can get an instant entry visa without much red tape.

This means that those who want to come to Germany to look around, get advice and apply to a university are free to do so.

People who manage to get a university place can stay by converting their original visa into a student's visa. Those who do not get a place must leave.

The new provisions are supposed to be tested in the 1984 summer and the 1984/85 winter semesters.

But this is still uncertain, pending approval by the states.

Given this approval, the provisions would remove the deadline barrier — but not the restrictive policy on foreign students.

Detractors criticise primarily the so-called "financial proof." Even under the new provisions, only those who can prove that they can support themselves would be admitted to the country.

In any event, this is what Interior Minister Zimmermann recommended to the Foreign Office in his letter of 10 May this year.

If this financial proof were to be based on the maximum rate of *Bafög*, the government study allowance (as planned), future applicants would have to prove that they have between DM40,000 and DM60,000 at their disposal.

Few people in the Third World can do this, leaving them with as little chance as they now have under the 14th Ordinance.

Under the envisaged provisions, it would be up to consular officials to decide who gets a chance to study in Germany. It would be they who would assess the school leaving certificates.

This would strip our universities of the right to decide on admission. Moreover, the consular officials would be as restrictive in their assessments as they are told to be by the Bonn Foreign Office.

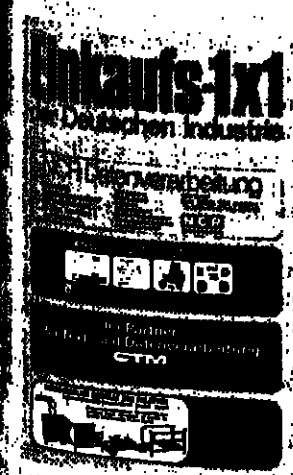
Assessing Third World school leaving certificates is a business for specialists. Embassies and consulates would be totally overtaxed.

In fact, some embassies were already overloaded in the last semester and have said so, according to Heidelberg University. Even top officials of the Foreign Office Cultural Department have described the new model as "habebrained."

Officials at the foreign students' centres are agreed that the whole thing will backfire.

Bernd Gierbach  
(Die Zeit, 28 October 1983)

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## Beauty and the beasts: debate over cosmetics and lab guinea pigs

Natural cosmetics have found their slot in the market. A few months ago they were only available in health food shops. Now they are in department stores too. They come in plain little pots and containers without the usual expensive packaging and colour.

But a label proclaims the good news to the enlightened consumer: "Contents good for a limited period only. No artificial preservatives. Guaranteed not tested on laboratory animals."

Anti-vivisectionists used to feel the pharmaceutical industry was their main opponent. Emotion swept objective argument aside, replacing it with wholesale accusations and hackneyed clichés.

While the one side complained about woe-begone animal-lovers the other lashed out at irresponsible scientists. But the debate has now switched to a fresh topic.

To mark the world action day the German Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals published an eight-page leaflet on cosmetics experiments with laboratory animals.

On the very first page a suffering animal is illustrated, sending out a mute appeal for help to the reader. It is a puppy with its forepaws tied together and a brutal device keeping its jaw wide open.

The caption is designed to trigger feelings of guilt: "Millions of animals, and not just this dog, suffer like this for you if you use cosmetics tested on laboratory animals."

Is it true that a profit-orientated industrial Mafia allows tens of thousands of animals to suffer unnecessarily every day?

Do they really allow it to go on just to be able to come up with a steady succession of new shades, formulas and fragrances for vain women, infinitely extending the range of superfluous products?

It is not merely a matter of purely decorative and thus superfluous items such as make-up, powder and eyeshadow but of articles we buy and use day by day without giving them a moment's thought.

They include soap, suntan oil, skin cream and deodorant. All are tested on animals first because people are seriously worried they might cause damage or harmful side-effects.

Only when they have passed laboratory experiments are they allowed to be marketed.

Polls indicate that the number of anti-vivisectionists in Germany has rapidly increased to 18 per cent. Telling them to stop buying cosmetics is not enough.

The leaflet names 26 small and medium-sized manufacturers who have signed an affidavit to the effect that no experiments with laboratory animals have been carried out in connection with their cosmetics or the raw materials they contain and none will be carried out in future.

It also lists the many large firms, from Arden to Yardley, that were either unable or unwilling to sign or didn't even bother to reply.

A number of companies pilloried in this way have hit back. A group of manufacturers including Juvena, Rubinstein and Guerlain held a seminar on the subject of laboratory experiments.

Manufacturers who had signed the af-

fidavit were claimed not to be as pure as the driven snow as they preferred to see themselves.

Some were said to have resorted to trickery and false evidence, while their products were, to say the least, not entirely satisfactory. Some were full of germs.

Lothar Motitschke, technical director at Marbert, was convinced there were instances of false pretences.

"Products labelled in this way have been probed and found in many cases to include substances that must have been tested on laboratory animals for compatibility," he said.

Most cosmetics manufacturers base their creams and lotions on essential oils and fragrances supplied by raw materials producers.

The cosmetics manufacturers are as much in the dark as their customers on what their suppliers have tested on laboratory animals.

The approved manufacturers, Herr Motitschke says, are in breach of either the law or their responsibility to consumers. A number of companies are considering taking them to court.

There is certainly a dilemma. What consumers want are effective substances that can also be guaranteed harmless. The Food and Drugs Act mainly bans

substances that are likely to be a health hazard to the consumer. Cosmetics must not harm the skin or mucous membranes (the eyes or mouth, for instance). All substances must be non-toxic and wherever possible they must not trigger allergies. Practical problems mainly arise from the arbitrary way in which these and other provisions are interpreted. What is meant by the statutory term "in foreseeable use," for instance? Does it include a child eating a lipstick it finds lying around the home? Does it include a child swallowing bath foam? It would surely be

Continued on page 13



Rabbits in the laboratory... how much are they really suffering? (Photo: J.H.R.)

## Experiments on animals 'on the decline'

Planck Institutes, for instance, use a maximum of 5,000 cuts and 1,000 dogs a year.

The pharmaceutical industry says that only 0.7 per cent of their laboratory animals are cats, dogs or apes and that the trend points downwards.

The public discussion on the extent and necessity of animal experiments has been going on for years.

One camp regards animal experiments as indispensable for science, medical progress and protection from harmful substances. The other camp demands their complete abolition. But this demand cannot be met until science has progressed further.

Work on methods that would make it possible to use laboratory tests instead of animals experiments has been in progress for decades.

Tissue cultures are already used for the production of vaccines, and new drugs against rheumatism and cardiovascular disorders are tested on cultures.

Tests for cancer-causing substances and genetic experiments are also frequently made in a test tube.

Cell cultures are started by putting animal tissues in suitable nutrients combined with additives.

Once the tissues have attached themselves to the wall of the vessel the cells exit and form a "cell-lawn."

One of the major obstacles has been selection of the suitable nutrient for each particular type of tissue. But the past decades have led to the development of many specific recipes and additives that now make it possible to main-

tain cell cultures of humans, animals and micro-organisms.

One animal test that has been carried out with rabbits is a test in which segments of the animal's spinal cord are placed in a solution of liquid 18 hours later sent to the clinic of Bonn University to determine the type that causes damage.

This test method was primarily developed in the search for drugs against multiple sclerosis (which kills ten million people a year).

The replacement of the animal by cell cultures was made possible by the development of cultures from the ovary cells of a special type of mouse.

The discovery was made by the neurologist of the Federal Health Institute in Berlin. One of the most common tests involves irritating the membrane of a rabbit's eye.

It is used to test the effects of disinfectants and other chemicals on the mucous membrane.

Berlin scientists now hope to get the same results from the conjunctiva of the eye.

Obtained from chicken embryos, the tissues atrophy at the slightest contact with a harmful substance.

There is no substitute for animal experiments in researching natural mechanical organ replacements.

The progress made in lung-heart and heart pacemakers nor kidney transplants would have been possible without tests involving dogs.

Animal experiments remain a necessary part of research. But this does not mean the number of tests cannot be reduced.

This, in fact, is the purpose of the amendment to the Animal Protection Act the Bonn Agriculture Ministry intends to table early next year.

Professor Jerusalem described the screening programme (CK Such Test) as the early diagnosis of another group

## MEDICINE

## Killer muscle disease still defies research efforts

mod at the 6th Symposium of the German Society for Muscular Diseases in Bonn a few weeks ago was apparent.

Research into muscular diseases has intensified in the past few years — primarily due to progress in electron-microscopy, immunobiochemistry, all of which has led to insights into healthy and diseased muscle cells.

So, the therapeutic possibilities are limited in most cases.

applies particularly to amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), a central nervous system disorder of unknown origin.

The disease usually occurs after more often in men than in women. It is a grave — almost always fatal — disease.

Victims usually die within two years as muscular debility increases without affecting the mental faculties.

Leading muscle researchers, Dr. A. G. Engel of the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn., reported on the latest hypotheses about the causes of the disease.

researchers attribute ALS to a viral infection with slow viruses. It is put down to changes in the metabolism and chronic poisoning with heavy metals. Yet another

line of thought blames the disease on malfunctioning of the substances that transmit signals from the nerves.

Animal experiments in America have shown gangliosides (a class of sugars) in the tissues of the central nervous system to promote the growth and differentiation of nerves. This has prompted

American doctors and the Neurological Clinic of Bonn University to attempt treatment with ganglioside preparations.

Prof. Felix Jerusalem, told the meeting in Bonn that this approach had been unsuccessful in both the United States and Bonn.

The therapy is to be continued with the discovery that scientists pin little hope on it. The number of patients in treatment with ganglioside preparations will be limited.

muscle atrophy is also due to a disease of the nerve cell disorder. This is a hereditary disease occurring in children in the second half of the first year and in adults.

The characteristic symptoms of the disease are muscle atrophy, weakness and paralysis.

The life expectancy of many affected children is greatly reduced. There is no effective treatment.

In some cases, scientists have managed to identify some of the causes of the disease.

American and German work groups reported on extremely rare enzyme deficiencies with symptoms similar to spinal muscle atrophy.

Other rare muscular disorders have been attributed to metabolism breakdown and mitochondrial myopathy.

Treatment with carnitine and dietetic measures boosted by the administration of carnitine have shown promise.

Professor Jerusalem described the screening programme (CK Such Test) as the early diagnosis of another group

of hereditary muscular diseases, the so-called progressive muscular dystrophy, as successful.

The programme makes it possible to diagnose the disease immediately after birth and before it has got a hold.

The voluntary screening programme involving 119,000 new-born boys since 1977 has led to the identification of 35 cases of the disease.

This has led to improvements in genetic counselling and provided the basis for early treatment with medication once suitable drugs have been developed.

Professor Jerusalem conceded that CK Such tests are still controversial among doctors.

Progress has been made with myasthenia or muscular debility. The past few years have brought some insights into the causes of the disorder. Myasthenia is now attributed to a blockage in the transmission of nerve impulses to the muscles. The blockage is said to be caused by an antibody against the acetylcholine receptors which play a major role in the transmission of nerve impulses.

The disease often occurs in early adulthood. It first affects the muscles controlling the eyes, speech, swallowing and chewing.

In some cases, the disease later spreads to the rest of the muscles. The symptoms typically occur during daytime physical exertion. They improve or disappear during the rest period at night.

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## Shattering kidney stones

This device made by aerospace firm Dornier in conjunction with Munich University makes operating unnecessary in two out of three kidney stone cases. It shatters the stones with shock waves. There is no pain. (Photo: Wilhelm Mierendorf)

Electrophysiological and pharmacological tests plus the isolation of the antibodies against acetylcholine receptors now make it possible to reliably diagnose the disorder.

By suppressing the immunological reaction responsible for the formation of antibodies, doctors have greatly improved the prospects for patients.

They are now debating whether the removal of the thymus would provide relief in myasthenia cases affecting only the eye muscles.

The involvement of the thymus has been largely researched by Professor H. Weckerle of the Max Planck Institute in Würzburg.

The thymus contains muscle-like cells

Their reactions cannot be equated with human responses, so the results of experiments on them are valueless.

Anti-vivisectionists are particularly critical of the LD 50 test, which is widely used in pharmaceutical and cosmetics research to determine the toxicity of unknown raw materials.

In this test at least 30 rodents are fed doses of the substance until at least half of them die. That is said to be the only way of finding out the lethal dose.

Much greater care is taken with the Draize test, which involves experiments on rabbits to find out how a substance affects the mucous membranes.

Protest has largely succeeded in persuading the industry to say it is prepared to make further cuts in the number of animal experiments carried out.

This is not done out of compassion, of course. Experiments cost time and money — between DM200,000 and DM2m — and raw materials suppliers charge for doing the "dirty work."

Much would have been gained if the licensing procedure for existing substances were at least simplified. They have all proved harmless in the course of regular use by consumers.

Alternatives must also be sought to make animal experiments superfluous, and here too the debate seems to be making headway.

In the United States the industry can resort to a fund that makes the quest for such alternatives financially rewarding. Similar proposals are under consideration in Germany. More and more substances could for that matter be tested on cell and bacteria cultures rather than on mammals. Samples of pig's skin and chicken embryo seem suitable too.

Anna von Münchhausen

(Die Zeit, 11 November 1983)

which, like the skeletal muscles, have acetylcholine receptors.

The assumption is that the auto-immunisation against acetylcholine receptors in myasthenia cases spreads from the thymus.

Since there is no promising treatment available for many muscular disorders, treatment consists primarily of physiotherapy.

The aim is to prevent a stiffening of the joints and deformation of the spine while strengthening the affected muscles.

This, together with orthopaedic treatment, can prolong a patient's ability to walk and stand by many years.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 2 November 1983)

Cosmetics research could well work from the bottom up, administering minute doses first and gradually increasing them until animals show initial reactions, then abandoning the tests.

Last but not least, there must be an end to constant increases in the number of animals used even though larger numbers might boost scientific accuracy.

Klaus Miltzer, head of the animal laboratory at Essen University and a scientist who feels experiments on laboratory animals are generally indispensable, says scientists must spare their animals and appreciate the limits of the model.

That leaves the option of trying out new cosmetics on human volunteers and making arguments as to whether animal findings are applicable to humans superfluous.

National or international data banks are a further possibility of preventing duplication and exchanging findings; but manufacturers' mistrust and fear of the competition present problems.

An ethics commission set up by the Scientific Research Association seems a more likely starter, but it would have to prove itself absolutely incorruptible.

Only then could it guarantee that scientists had learnt their lessons from the past and were intent on regaining the confidence they no longer universally commanded.

Even laboratory rabbits kept in ideal conditions may die. Some, says Professor Hellmut Ippen, a Göttingen don, end up in a casserole or pie as soon as the experiment has proved a success.

Anna von Münchhausen

(Die Zeit, 11 November 1983)

## ■ BEHAVIOUR

## The man who discovered a secret in a flock of wild geese

I've been inhumanly lucky most of my life: I've had animals as my friends." The man who said this in a 1980 television interview must have had such famous friends in mind as the jackdaw Tschok and, of course, Martina, the gosling to whom, he was a tender, loving mother.

Zoologist Konrad Lorenz, the founder of modern ethology (the study of animal and human behaviour by means of comparative zoological methods), has just turned 80. Most of these 80 years have been shared with animals.

Even his love for his wife Gretl goes back to a common animal acquaintance: a pair of ducklings given to the 6-year-old Konrad.

It was Gretl Lorenz who, as a gynaecologist, kept the family going financially over many years.

Lorenz himself had no regular income until he was almost 50 — except for a brief spell in 1940/41 when he was professor and head of the Department of General Psychology at the Albertus University in Königsberg, now Kaliningrad, in Russia.

This changed in 1950 when he joined the Max Planck Society, initially as head of a research centre in Bulder, Westphalia. Later, in 1955, he was made head of the Institute for Behavioural Physiology in Seewiesen, Bavaria, which was custom-made for him.

He remained at the institute until his

retirement in 1973, the year in which he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine.

It was during his work with a flock of wild geese that Lorenz discovered the basic principle of modern ethology: the fact that behavioural patterns are as hereditary as physiological traits. They are equally subject to the principles of evolution rather than being acquired or learned.

The decisive aspect was Lorenz's application of this finding to humans. The consequences of this for our moral self-assessment are inestimable.

This was most convincingly documented — and most sharply criticised — in his famous book, *On Aggression* (English edition 1966) in which he describes aggression in animal species and the significance of it for the understanding of human behaviour.

It was this that some people have interpreted as a moral free-for-all.

Lorenz has never wanted to have his aggression theory understood in this oversimplified manner. But the general public has never quite understood the scientific nuances in his study.

Some of the more demanding Lorenz books, among them the one describing his evolutionary findings (*Die Rückseite des Spiegels* or the mirror's reverse, 1973) were rather disappointing to a general readership used to more entertaining fare.

He is now back in the limelight as a spokesman for the ecology movement.

But here, too, he has essentially withdrawn to questionable analogies between people and animals. As far back as 1940, Lorenz attempted to demonstrate with domestic animals that domestication, i.e. selective breeding, leads to degeneration of behavioural patterns typical for a species.

The reason he gave was that domestic animals were no longer governed by the evolutionary principle of the survival of the fittest.

His views led to a public dispute when he described human civilisation as "self-domestication."

In his book *Die acht Todsünden der zivilisierten Menschheit* (civilised humanity's eight deadly sins) published in 1973, he described the possibly suicidal consequences of technological civilisation.

This was followed by a recent paper in which he spoke of a pathological decline of formerly valid principles of the human community.

Attitudes like orderliness and derived from growth and vigour were originally assets in prehistoric species, have now been turned into destructive opposites, says Lorenz.

The study contains some tips and plausible observations on our world.

Irene M... (Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 10 November 1983)



Konrad Lorenz with a winged research colleague

countrywide excesses against the Jewish community in Nazi Germany November 1938 have come to be known by the euphemism of the *Reichskristallnacht*, or night of crystal. Hundreds of synagogues were gutted and smashed and looted. Homes were vandalised. Hundreds of thousands of Jews were arrested, hunted and, in some cases, killed. A "campaign of vengeance" was launched against the Jewish community. The only crime was to have been born Jewish. In 1938 there were still over 2 million Jews living in Germany.

The pretext for this campaign was the assassination of a German embassy official in Paris, Ernst vom Rath, by a Polish Jew, Herschel Grynszpan, on 7 November 1938.

Grynszpan's aim was to draw attention to the persecution of Jews in Germany. It had happened to about 17,000 Jews of German origin, including Grynszpan's family.

Only beforehand they had been excluded, forcibly and barbarously, across Polish borders.

After conferring with Hitler, Propaganda Minister Goebbels took the occasion as a pretext for an officially ordered nationwide raid on Jewish property.

Hundreds of Nazis, mostly SA men, roamed through villages and towns, looting and burning Jewish property.

They laid waste to Jewish property, smashed and set fire to synagogues, looted up Jewish citizens.

They saw the ruins of gutted synagogues and Jewish homes, wrote an eye-witness from Berlin, "and empty shops in which nothing was left but broken glass, and furniture and vandalised remains of stock."

It was told that pro-Nazi teachers taken their classes out to see how Jewish had been dealt their "just punishment."

It was not so much as a word had been said that teachers filled their pockets with sweets and chocolate stolen from Jewish shops.

Police, obeying orders, paid no heed to such excesses and the wave of destruction. Instead, they dealt with complaints by members of the Jewish community.

They claimed there had been a spontaneous expression of popular anger, but this was a propaganda claim close to believe.

They cannot even be said to have been enthusiastic. Contemporary reports seem to indicate that most people looked on impassively, shrugging their shoulders as it were.

At the *Sicherheitsdienst* (SD) stock of what had been a Jewish shop, 29 department stores and 171 homes had been gutted or laid to waste.

Many synagogues had been de-

## FLASHBACK

## Reichskristallnacht, when the Nazi wreckers hit town

## Saarbrücker Zeitung

molished and 191 gutted. Over 20,000 Jews were also taken into custody and sent to concentration camps.

We will never know for sure how many Jews were killed or driven to suicide. The Nazi Party's own court dealt with 91 deaths.

In nearly all cases the killers were let off on the ground that their orders had been open to misinterpretation.

The Jews had to meet the cost themselves. Insurance claims were dismissed by the state, which later even ordered them to pay RM1bn in "damages."

The pogrom was as devastating in the Saar as it was everywhere else in the Reich even though the number of Jewish residents had plummeted since 1933.

In 1933 there were 4,638 Jews in the Saar. By 1938/39 roughly 90 per cent had emigrated, mainly to France and Luxembourg.

Those that were left were publicly ill-treated, harassed, jeered and humiliated. Many were taken into custody, especially the well-to-do, and their homes and businesses laid waste.

Nearly all the synagogues were gutted. They included Jewish churches in Saarbrücken, Dillingen, Merzig, Neunkirchen, Ottweiler, St Wendel, Illingen, Brotdorf and Saarwellingen.

Newspapers in the Saar had long been

Frightening and typical are the attributes that best describe the poster advertising the Bonn exhibition on Childhood and Youth Under the Nazis.

It shows a kiddies' cart being pushed by a boy of four or five. His younger brother is sitting in the cart, which on its chair-back sports a resplendent swastika.

The motif was not specially thought up for the exhibition, which is on show at the city's central library until 21 December. It was taken from a contemporary newspaper photograph.

Nearly 300 items, many personal, were loaned by local people. They include badges, ID cards, books and diaries provided by about 30 Bonn people.

The exhibition makes no claim to be either scientific or complete. It is merely intended, 50 years after the Nazi takeover, to show young people in particular what life was like at the time.

Most of the people who had loaned personal documents attended the opening ceremony. So did representatives of the institutions who backed the idea of the exhibition, which was the city library's brainchild.

They included the Old Synagogue in Essen, which houses a permanent exhibition on resistance to and persecution in the Third Reich.

There was the Federal Political Education Centre, the Bonn Peace Education Centre, the municipal theatres, the city archives and the Rhenish State Hospital, Bonn.

There was also the Hamburg office of the President's award scheme for schoolchildren's essays on German history.

This year young people at a school in Bad Godesberg, Bonn's twin town, won first prize with a project on the Nazi era in Bonn. They and their teacher were there too.



Left: SA Brownshirts blocking access to a Jewish business in Berlin. Right: the synagogue in Berlin's Oranienburger Strasse after being set alight. (Photo: dpa)

brought to heel by the Nazis. They had little or nothing to say about the raids on Jewish people and their property.

The arson that laid waste to the synagogues was the subject of snide comments by leader-writers, including a leading article in the *Saarbrücker Zeitung* 45 years ago.

The Star of David as it fell from the burning ruins of the Saarbrücken synagogue, the newspaper editorialised, symbolised the star of international Jewry, which was similarly on the decline.

The *Neue Abendzeitung*, a Saarbrücken evening paper, referred derisively to a long-awaited destructive fire. The *Saar- und Blieszeitung*, Neunkir-

chen, wrote in jubilant, primitive anti-Semitic terms of the Jewish temple, a disgrace to the town, having been burnt down.

In the wake of the *Reichskristallnacht* a plague of further official harassment came down on the remaining Jews in Germany, who were now well and truly beyond the pale.

Their freedom of movement and activity had long been restricted. These restrictions were intensified. A few years later the Nazi authorities opted for a "final solution" that sent millions of European Jews to the gas chambers.

Albert H. V. Kraus (Saarbrücker Zeitung, 10 November 1983)

## The lessons of a Third Reich childhood

The aims of the exhibition were outlined by the head of the city library, Dr Günter Röttcher, and the director of the Federal Political Education Centre, Horst Dahlhaus.

Each successive generation must ask itself and arrive at a personal answer on whether lessons can be learnt from history, Herr Dahlhaus said.

Today's 50-year-olds had learnt their lesson and realised that in their childhood and youth they had been misled by a dangerous regime.

But they had devoted so much time and effort to post-war reconstruction that they had forgotten to pass on to young people what they had experienced and felt they had learnt.

This failure was one they had only recently come to appreciate, but it was not too late to tell today's young people from personal experience what living history had been like at first hand.

It was an opportunity that ought not to be missed. The Bonn exhibition was one way of setting about it. The more people who saw it, the better.

Many exhibits testify to the profound effect Nazi ideas had on children and young people. Take, for instance, the sewing machine advertisement that proclaimed:

"German girls! If you want to become German women put German technology to good use!"

Or a poster advertising a competition for German youngsters on the topic: *Volksgemeinschaft — Blutgemeinschaft* (One Nation — One Blood).

Then there is a leaflet dating back to November 1938 proclaiming that Jews were banned from attending German schools.

An article in the *Westdeutscher Beobachter*, a regional Nazi newspaper, commented that it was about time the Hitler Youth took over the "Red" meeting house of the *Naturfreunde*.

A racial booklet for young Germans contained reading matter for the new German school. Another book for young people, adorned with rune emblems, asked:

"Is it a misfortune to have been born in an unruly, tempestuous age? Is it not a blessing?"

This propaganda bombardment could not fail to have an effect. A 16-year-old girl wrote in her diary on 20 April, 1939: "Today is the Führer's 50th birthday. Words cannot express the wonderful feeling of being a German."

A 13-year-old boy noted in his diary that he was terribly fond of the Führer.

Documents supplied by the Rhenish State Hospital are particularly saddening. They tell the tale of at least 50 children transferred from Bonn to Kaimenhof, near Idstein in the Taunus hills.

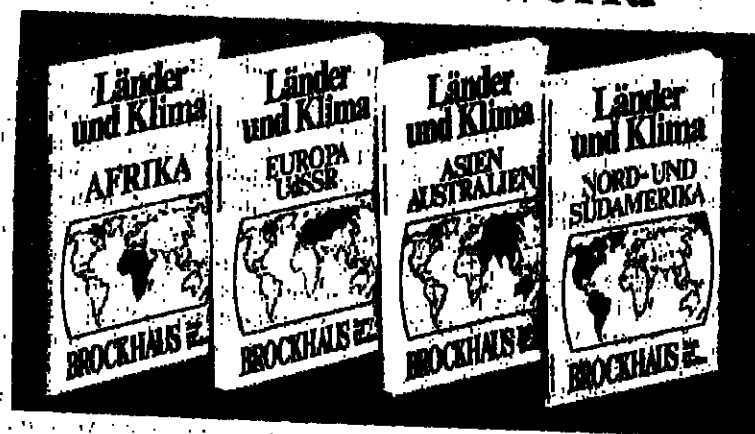
Kaimenhof was a special treatment centre for children. It put them to death. At least 44 of the children were killed there.

A meeting is shortly to be held as part of Children's Book Week in Bonn. People who were children 50 years ago will tell youngsters what it was like.

The aim is to back up the impression made by the exhibition of swastikas, diaries, photos, documents, letters from the front and reports of Hitler Youth gatherings.

Maybe personal recollections will help both young and old to think it over. (General-Anzeiger Bonn, 10 November 1983)

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